

Department of Consumer Affairs
Bureau of Automotive Repair

USED VEHICLE INSPECTIONS

Tim Corcoran/Jaime Ramos

BAR Field Operations and Enforcement Division

BAR Advisory Group Meeting
October 19, 2017

CONSUMER COMPLAINTS

- In the past 2 years, BAR has received over 4,000 consumer complaints where the vehicle involved was a used car recently purchased from a car dealer.
- In over 800 of the complaints, the consumer specifically alleged that the vehicle's Check Engine Light illuminated within days or even hours following the purchase.

CHECK ENGINE LIGHT



MISSING CATALYTIC CONVERTER



AUTHORITY

- BAR currently licenses and regulates approximately 35,000 ARDs and approximately 7,000 Smog Check stations.
- DMV licenses and regulates over 7,500 used car dealers.
- Vehicle Code § 24007 – no dealer shall sell or offer for sale a vehicle that is not smog compliant.
- California Health and Safety Code § 43012 – DMV, BAR and ARB have authority to inspect the emissions systems on vehicles offered for sale at any car dealer.

USED VEHICLE INSPECTIONS

- In response to consumer complaints and in the interest of consumer protection, BAR in conjunction with DMV are performing inspections of used vehicles being offered for sale by dealers.
- The purpose of these inspections is to identify vehicles for sale that are not smog compliant and may need repairs to bring them into compliance.
- During the inspection, the vehicle's emissions system is visually inspected and the vehicle's computer system is scanned to identify problems.

Causes of Inspection Failure

1. Illuminated Check Engine Light
2. Incomplete readiness monitors
3. Missing or incorrect catalytic converter(s)
4. Missing or tampered emissions systems components
5. Non-approved aftermarket parts (no valid EO#)
6. No valid Smog Certificate of Compliance at the time of inspection

IF A VEHICLE FAILS THE INSPECTION

- The vehicle is flagged and directed to the Referee for a smog inspection.
- A “Not For Sale” notice is affixed to the vehicle’s window notifying prospective buyers the vehicle is not in smog compliance.
- The vehicle must pass a smog inspection at a Referee facility.
- The car dealer shall not sell the vehicle until a valid Certificate of Compliance has been issued by the Referee.
- If a vehicle fails the inspection solely due to incomplete readiness monitors, the dealer has the option of having BAR re-inspect the vehicle within 10 business days. If the readiness monitors have completed their required self-tests, and the check engine light is not illuminated, the vehicle flag will be removed.



NOT
FOR SALE



DO NOT REMOVE THIS NOTICE

**THIS VEHICLE IS PRESENTLY NOT IN COMPLIANCE
WITH THE CALIFORNIA VEHICLE POLLUTION
CONTROL LAWS AND MAY NOT BE SOLD UNTIL A
VALID CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE HAS BEEN
ISSUED.**

Make/Model _____

Year _____ License # _____

VIN # _____

Inspector _____

**THIS VEHICLE MAY ONLY BE INSPECTED AND SMOG CHECK CERTIFIED BY A
STATE OF CALIFORNIA SMOG CHECK REFEREE CENTER.**

For more information contact:

DCA / Bureau of Automotive Repair at (916) 403-8080

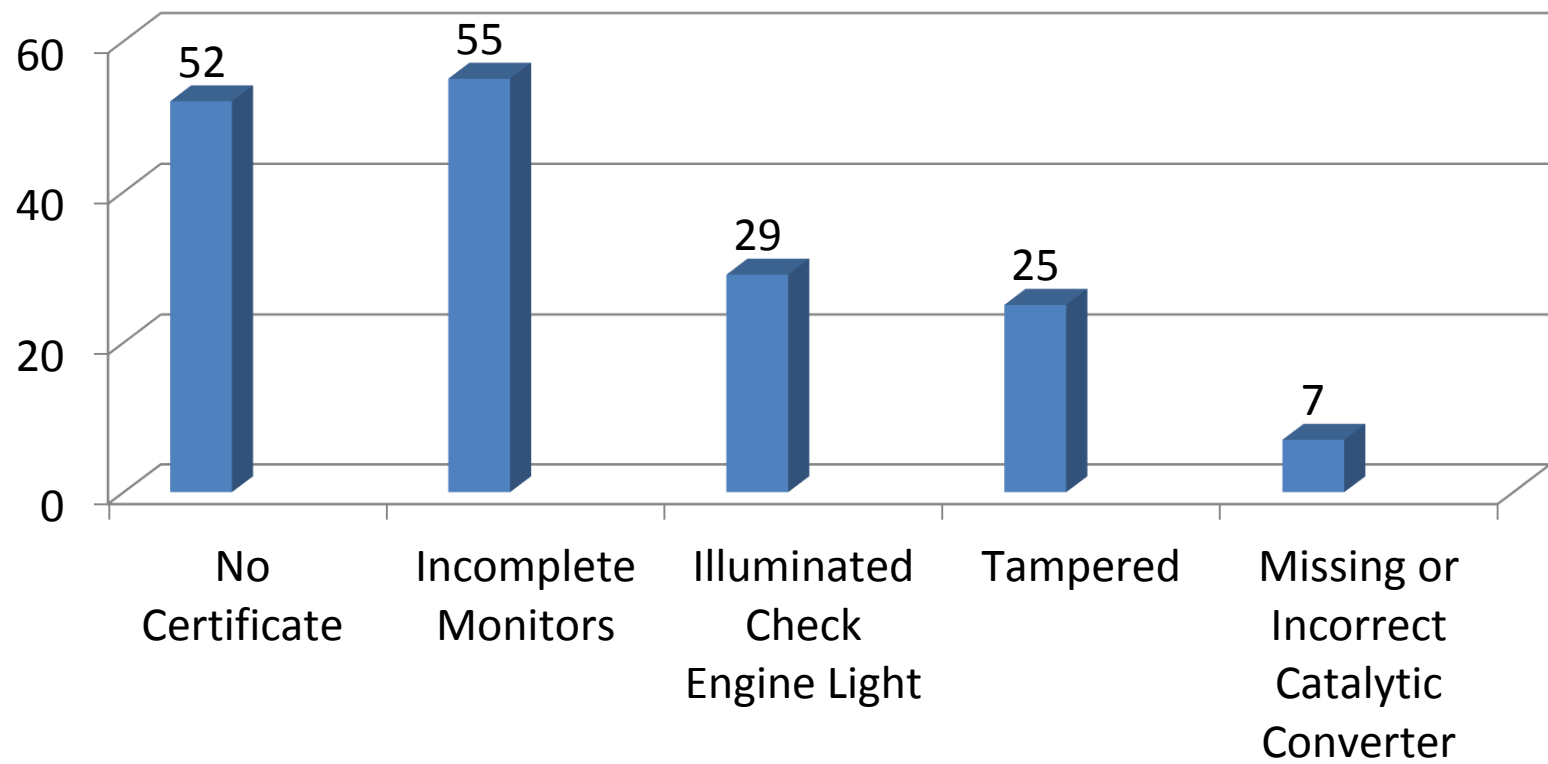
**Bureau's Sacramento Field Office
10949 North Mather Blvd
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670**

USED VEHICLE INSPECTIONS FY 2017-18

- Total car dealers inspected – 20
- Total vehicles inspected – 454
- Total vehicles flagged for Referee – 143
- Vehicles cleared after 10 day re-inspection of monitors – 31
- Dealers inspected with no deficiencies – 3

* Inspections performed as of October 13, 2017

Top Inspection Failure Reasons



* Inspections performed as of October 13, 2017

CONSUMER TIPS WHEN PURCHASING A USED VEHICLE

- Have the vehicle inspected prior to purchase.
Dealers are required to post a sign advising consumers of the following:
“The prospective purchaser of a vehicle may, at his or her own expense and with the approval of the dealer, have the vehicle inspected by an independent third party either on or off these premises.” (Vehicle Code § 11709.1)
- Check BAR’s website for Smog Check history (www.bar.ca.gov).
- Check for any open recalls (www.safercar.gov).
- Check DMV’s website (www.dmv.ca.gov) to verify the Dealer license, obtain additional car shopping tips, and for information on consumer rights and recourse if problems arise during or after the purchase.

Please Note: Any test records sent during the day will not be displayed until after midnight.

This will not affect the transmission of electronic smog certificates to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) for registration purposes.

Select Either License Plate or VIN then enter the value of the License Plate or VIN.

**Note: "Display of both the VIN and plate number has been removed due to privacy concerns. Therefore, this information will not be reported back in the 'Vehicle Test History Report'. You may continue to look up a vehicle's test history using either the VIN or the plate number. However, the Bureau recommends using the VIN to obtain the most accurate results as a vehicle's plate number may change."

[Smog Check Program Areas Fact Sheet](#)

☐ License Plate ☒ VIN (Vehicle ID Number)

License or VIN: 1GTHK231[REDACTED]

Submit

Vehicle Information

STAR Certification Required	Referee Certification Required	Program Area
NO	YES	Basic

Due to irregularities and/or discrepancies identified either during the last Smog Check inspection or during an off-cycle vehicle audit, this vehicle requires a Smog Check inspection performed at a Smog Check Referee station. Once the Referee issues a Smog Check Certificate of Compliance to this vehicle, it may again be certified by other stations during the next inspection cycle.

[Click here for more information about the Referee.](#)

Number of Tests Found = 9

Test Records

Make	Model	Year	Date / Time	Pass / Fail	Certificate	Referee Inspection
GMC	SIERRA K2500 HEAVY DUTY	2004	10/04/2017 01:19 p.m.	T	[REDACTED]	YES
GMC	SIERRA K2500 HEAVY DUTY	2004	03/09/2017 09:25 a.m.	P		NO
GMC	SIERRA K2500 HD	2004	11/13/2015 10:01 a.m.	P		NO
GMC	SIERRA 2500 DIESEL	2004	05/27/2014 01:44 p.m.	P		NO
GMC	SIERRA 2500 DIESEL	2004	01/22/2014 08:44 a.m.	P		NO
GMC	SIERRA 2500 DIESEL	2004	12/24/2013 10:43 a.m.	A		NO
GMC	SIERRA 2500 DIESEL	2004	10/08/2012 10:56 a.m.	P		NO
GMC	K2500 SIERRA HEAVY DUT	2004	02/26/2011 12:39 p.m.	P		NO
GMC	K2500 SIERRA HEAVY DUT	2004	11/24/2010 11:50 a.m.	P		NO

Pass/Fail Code Definitions: P=Pass, F=Fail, A=Aborted, R=Not Ready,
D = Data Check Fail. The vehicle's OBD system data is inappropriate for the vehicle being tested,
T=Failed test with Emission Device found to be Tampered.
*A "Blank" column can also indicate an aborted test.

CAR DEALER TIPS

Purchasing vehicles at auction:

- Check BAR's website for Smog Check history (www.bar.ca.gov) to verify that the vehicle is not Referee directed.
- Check for open safety recalls (www.safercar.gov).

Preparing for a used vehicle inspection:

- Perform reconditioning/safety inspection before the smog inspection.
- Be conscientious of computer keep-alive memory when disconnecting batteries, and implement measures to prevent the resetting of OBD monitors.
- All vehicles offered for sale must have a valid Smog Certificate of Compliance.

Questions and Comments

Submit additional questions and/or comments to:

Jaime Ramos

Bureau of Automotive Repair

10949 N. Mather Boulevard

Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Phone: 916-403-8132

Fax: 916-464-2879

Email: Jaime.Ramos@dca.ca.gov